

Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation

Seattle Board of Park Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2011

Web site: <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkboard/>
(Includes agendas and minutes from 2001-present)

Also, view Seattle Channel tapes of meetings, June 12, 2008-most current, at
<http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/watchVideos.asp?program=Parks>

Board of Park Commissioners:

Present:

John Barber
Jourdan Keith
Donna Kostka
Diana Kincaid, Vice-chair
Jackie Ramels

Excused:

Terry Holme, Chair

Seattle Parks and Recreation Staff:

Eric Friedli, Acting Deputy Superintendent
Sandy Brooks, Coordinator

This meeting was held at Seattle Park Headquarters at 100 Dexter Avenue North. Commissioner Kincaid called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and Board members introduced themselves. She welcomed the audience to the meeting, and reviewed the meeting agenda. **Commissioner Barber moved approval of the January 13 agenda and record of correspondence received by the Board since the December 9, 2010, meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keith, the vote was taken, and motion was approved.**

A quorum of commissioners had not yet reviewed the October 18 annual retreat and December 9 meeting minutes. These will be approved at the January 27 meeting. The Board's chair was out of town and the meeting was chaired by the Board's vice-chair, Commissioner Kincaid.

Superintendent's Report

Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli reported on the following topics. To listen to the report, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5591102> and move cursor to position 3.00.

PARTNERSHIPS

Rob Dyrek Foundation: The Superintendent has a conference call scheduled with the Rob Dyrek Foundation to assess the feasibility of partnering for the construction of the Delridge Skate Park. The Foundation has a \$100,000 grant to put towards a skatepark and has expressed interest in this particular site. For more information on the Foundation, see <http://robdyrekfoundation.org/>.

YMCA: Bob Gilbertson, CEO of the YMCA of Greater Seattle, has offered to have discussions with Seattle Parks and Recreation on operation/utilization of the Department's community centers. This could be a tremendous partnership opportunity, as the Department looks for ways to subsidize its shrinking budget.

Seattle Parks Foundation: Earlier today, the Acting Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent met with the Seattle Parks Foundation to discuss expanding the traditional role the Foundation has played for Seattle Parks and Recreation Department. There is a desire with the new Foundation leadership to expand the role from a “brick and mortar” to more collaborative support in partnership development.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Ramels whether the Department will discuss these proposals with the new Community Center Advisory Team, Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli responded that the Department will do so. He added that Parks’ Finance Director, Carol Everson, will speak more on this later in this meeting.

Clean and Green Seattle Initiative: Sponsored by the City’s Office of Economic Development, the ***Clean and Green Seattle Initiative*** promotes the greening and beautification of neighborhood business districts by offering grants and resources for greening projects, increasing efforts to promote trees and greenery and encourage green development.

In 2010 Clean and Green Seattle collected 17,600 pounds of litter and debris; repaired more than 200 streetlights; painted-out more than 120 graffiti sites; planted 200 trees; cleaned up more than 35 illegal dumpsites; and had more than 2,940 community volunteers participate. For more information on Clean and Green Seattle Initiative, see http://www.seattle.gov/economicDevelopment/biz_district_guide/clean_green.htm.

Woodland Park Zoo: The Acting Superintendent and staff recently met with the zoo’s Executive Director on the zoo’s parking issues. As a regional institution, the zoo has inadequate parking and is looking at ways to address the need, including shuttle service, alternative modes of transportation, rapid ride stops along Aurora Avenue, Metro discounts, improving driver wayfinding, and providing valet parking during concerts. The plan is to look at all other options available before reopening discussions about constructing a parking garage.

Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI): Seattle Parks and Recreation staff have now vacated the Lake Union Armory building and MOHAI has taken possession. Contractors have begun work to remodel the building, with MOHAI expecting the new museum to open in fall of 2012.

GOOD NEWS STORIES

Fuel Reduction: The Department’s fuel use was down 12.7% in 2010. At \$3/gallon that equals about \$112,841 in savings over 2007, and \$23,908 savings over the 2010 goal. There are a lot of budget, driving, routing, and equipment changes that factor into this decrease, including lightening vehicle loads and no idling of vehicles is allowed. The savings are impressive and reflect Seattle Park and Recreation Department’s commitment to being green and reducing waste.

Seattle Public Utilities’ (SPU) Genessee Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Project: The Park Board will receive an in-depth briefing on this issue at the January 27 meeting. However, an early update is that the two projects have been reviewed with the Mayor’s Office and will now be forwarded to City Council for legislative action to address I-42 and siting issues. Mayor McGinn asked that State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA) and public review be handled before City Council takes action. The two park sites selected are the “triangle/parking lot” site on Lake Washington Boulevard and the “Duck Bay” parking lot on the Boulevard just south of Lakewood Moorage.

Commissioner Barber stated that SPU’s CSO project at Washington Park is much larger than the diagrams shown during a briefing to the Park Board and expressed concern whether SPU provided the Board adequate information. He has two concerns with the project: the extent of the project and any anticipated impact on surrounding trees. Commissioner Kincaid also voiced concerns about the project’s extent. Acting Deputy Superintendent will investigate. [The following Tuesday, he provided the following information to the Board: *At the Park Board meeting last week Commissioners Barber and Kinkaid raised a question about the extent of the SPU project at Washington Park. I asked staff to check and make sure the project is staying within the original plan. Our parks*

inspector stopped by the site on Friday and determined that the contractor has stayed within the original construction limits established when the project started last year. The contractor has also been using quite a bit of Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) right-of-way for staging –beyond the area owned by Parks, so this makes the area of construction seem even larger. The contractor had to get a separate street use permit from SDOT for these non-park areas. Only trees shown for removal on the plans (other than a handful of invasive trees like hollies) have been removed.]

Belltown Street Park: Seattle Department of Transportation's design and permitting processes for this new street park will continue through June. This summer Seattle Parks and Recreation will proceed with advertising, bidding, and the construction contract award processes. Construction should begin in September and continue through next winter, with a spring 2012 completion.

CURRENT ISSUES

Cleanscapes: The Department continues to evaluate Cleanscape's offer to perform volunteer clean up work in the Pike-Pine corridor, including Westlake Park. Staff will report the outcome of this proposal to the Board.

Hempfest: This annual Seattle event is scheduled for the third weekend in August 2011 at Myrtle Edwards Park. At the same time, Seattle Department of Transportation will be working on its overpass to connect the park with Queen Anne Hill. Parks and SDOT are working on the project's timing and managing the festival and project.

New Park Name Announced: Today Acting Superintendent Williams announced the name of a new park on Capitol Hill as Summit Slope Park. This name reflects both the location and natural terraced layout of the park at 200 Summit Avenue East.

The Park Naming Committee unanimously recommended to the Acting Superintendent that the park be named Summit Slope Park, after a previous naming decision was reconsidered. The P-Patch located in the park is named "Unpaving Paradise P-Patch" to reflect the fact that this park site used to be an urban parking lot, and to recognize the community group named "Unpaving Paradise" that was involved in the planning and fundraising for this park.

Instead of proposing to name the park after Seattle's sister city relationship with Perugia, Italy, Parks and the Perugia Sister City Committee have reached agreement on a new approach to recognizing this ongoing relationship that will entail identification and recognition of a cultural icon such as a griffin (the symbol of Perugia) or an Etruscan artifact that reflects the city's Etruscan heritage. The park in Perugia that honors Seattle is named Sister Orca Park in recognition of the sister city relationship and Seattle's rich Native American and maritime heritage. This recognition will take place in a new, as yet unnamed, Seattle park.

UPCOMING RIBBON CUTTINGS AND GROUND BREAKINGS. Tentative Opening Events for spring 2011:

Delridge Playfield Opening Event and Skatepark Groundbreaking
Saturday, March 12

John & Summit/ Summit Slope Official Opening
Saturday, March 26 or April 2

Thomas C. Wales Official Opening
Friday, April 22 (Earth Day)

Hubbard Homestead Opening
Saturday, April 23

Myrtle Reservoir Park Opening
Saturday, April 30

Oral Requests and Communication from the Audience

The Chair explained this portion of the agenda is reserved for topics that have not had, or are not scheduled for, a public hearing. Speakers are limited to two-to-three minutes each, will be timed, and are asked to stand at the podium to speak. The Board's usual process is for 10 minutes of testimony to be heard at this time, with additional testimony heard after the regular agenda and just before Board of Park Commissioner's Old/New Business. Three people signed up to testify. To hear the full testimony, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5591102>.

Brian Smith: Mr. Smith and the next speaker, Mr. Dorman, showed a large map of Tilikum Place [primarily owned by the City's Department of Transportation with a fountain at the site owned and maintained by Seattle Parks and Recreation], located at 5th and Cedar. Recently Seattle Department of Transportation issued permits for the Five Point Café to add a fenced outside beer garden. This area is well used by pedestrians and there are several other businesses nearby impacted by the fenced-off area. Mr. Smith voiced concerns with how this permanent barrier to the sidewalk was permitted by SDOT. He stated that Five Point Café has a posted slogan inside that reads "Alcoholics Serving Alcoholics Since 1920." He and other community members have requested SDOT to rescind the permit.

Paul Dorman: Mr. Dorman also has a business near the Five Point and believes the fenced area deters pedestrians from accessing his and four other nearby businesses. He would like to see a comprehensive style of public seating, similar to that in Europe, rather than seating set up exclusively for one business. He is willing to provide up to \$50,000 for comprehensive seating for the area.

Belle Collin: Ms. Collin is the owner of Bambino Pizza, located near the Five Point, and lives nearby. She also offered to contribute funds to the site to be used for attractive tables and chairs in a comprehensive seating plan. She does not want the area fenced off and blocked to pedestrians.

Commissioner Kincaid asked Parks staff to keep the Board informed about this issue. Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli responded that although the area is not a park and Seattle Parks and Recreation only owns the fountain, the area feels like a park. He and Acting Superintendent Williams will take a more active role in this issue and will talk with the community and SDOT. Commissioner Kincaid stated the Board will discuss whether to write a letter to SDOT in support of the neighborhood's concerns heard tonight. Acting Deputy Superintendent Friedli stated that SDOT is accepting testimony on this issue through January 20, then will take the proposal before City Council. Acting Superintendent Williams will keep the Board updated.

Commissioner Kincaid thanked those who testified.

Briefing: Overview of Seattle Parks and Recreation's 2011 Approved Budget

Carol Everson, Seattle Parks and Recreation Finance Director, next presented an update briefing on the Department's adopted 2011 budget. Commissioners received an Excel spreadsheet (attached to these minutes) reflecting the information, which was also posted to the Board's web page and made available to the public. To hear Ms. Everson's two presentations and the Board's discussions, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=5591086> and move cursor to position 34.00.

Commissioners thanked Ms. Everson for the presentation.

Briefing: City Council Statements of Legislative Intent

Ms. Everson next presented a briefing on three Statement of Legislative Intents (SLI's) requested by Seattle City Council as a result of the Department's 2011 budget. Commissioners received a summary of each SLI, which were also posted on the Board's web page and made available to the public.

The three SLI's include:

- Paid Parking Analysis
- Community Center Partnership and Planning Analysis
- Rowing and Sailing Transition Plan

Summaries of each follow:

Written Briefing
2011 - 2012 Statement of Legislative Intent

Approved

Tab	Action	Option	Version
98	1	A	3

Budget Action Title: Paid Parking Analysis by Department of Parks and Recreation, and Rescind and Replace SLI 98-1-A-1.

Councilmembers: Bagshaw; Burgess; Clark; Conlin

Staff Analyst: Kieu-Anh King; Kathy Nyland

Budget Committee Vote:

Date	Result	SB	BH	SC	TR	JG	NL	RC	TB	MO
11/22/2010	Pass 9-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Statement of Legislative Intent:

This Statement of Legislative Intent rescinds and replaces a prior version of this SLI, 98-1-A-1, which was erroneously approved by the Council. This version is updated to include a preliminary report to Council, described in detail below, and is otherwise identical to version 98-1-A-1.

The City Council requests the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), working in concert with the City Budget Office, the Seattle Department of Transportation and the Department of Finance and Administrative Services, prepare an analysis of and proposal for paid parking at surface parking lots at selected City parks. DPR should analyze the benefits, costs and effects of implementing paid hourly parking at a small number of sites in the city and should submit a report and proposal to the City Council's Parks and Seattle Center Committee no later than Friday, July 1, 2011.

Preliminary Report and Status Update. The City Council requests that the Parks Department prepare a preliminary report, to be delivered to the Council's Parks & Seattle Center Committee by February 1, 2011. The preliminary report should include a summary of similar analyses conducted in the prior decade, as well as an update on the parameters of this new analysis.

Final Report. The final report should include the following:

1. A list of potential locations – between five and ten parks – throughout the city, where paid parking could be implemented, including the rationale for selection and the number of parking spots included.
2. An analysis of benefits to Park users from paid parking, including increased turnover of existing parking spaces, increased availability of parking spaces at high-demand parks and other social benefits.
3. An analysis of pay-parking models at other public parks.
4. Analysis of transportation alternatives for Park users and access to transit at the selected parks.

5. Analysis of current use at the selected parking lots, including turnover rates, occupancy rates and current parking enforcement policies and practices.
6. Analysis of paid parking's impacts on park users, including disparate impacts to certain user groups and low-income users.
7. Analysis of impacts and effects on surrounding neighborhoods, including current parking availability and the potential need for additional Restricted Parking Zones (RPZs).
8. A discussion of possible rates, including differential rates for high-demand Parks facilities or high-demand times and days, and revenue potential.
9. An analysis of one-time and ongoing implementation costs, including any ancillary costs at the Seattle Department of Transportation, the Department of Finance and Administration and the Seattle Police Department related to signage, operations and maintenance of meters / pay stations and enforcement expenses.
10. An outreach and neighborhood implementation plan.

The City Council's Parks and Seattle Center Committee intends to review this analysis in the summer of 2011, in the context of the Parks Department budget proposal for 2012. City Council is also expecting Department of Parks and Recreation to conduct this analysis with existing staff resources.

Responsible Council Committee(s): Parks and Seattle Center

Date Due to Council: February 1, 2011; July 1, 2011

2011 - 2012 Statement of Legislative Intent

Ready for Notebook

Tab	Action	Option	Version
101	1	A	1

Budget Action Title: Community Center Partnership and Planning Analysis

Councilmembers: Bagshaw; Burgess; Clark; Godden; Rasmussen

Staff Analyst: Kieu-Anh King; Traci Ratzliff

Date		Total	SB	BH	SC	TR	JG	NL	RC	TB	MO
	Yes										
	No										
	Abstain										
	Absent										

Statement of Legislative Intent:

The City Council requests that the Parks Department, working closely with their established community leaders and recreational partners (including the Associated Recreation Council and the City's Advisory Councils), the City Budget Office, the City Council and Parks Department employees, conduct research and analysis on:

1. Increased partnerships for the management and operations of the City's Community Centers,
2. Increased partnerships for planning and fundraising for the City's Community Centers,
3. Alternate management, operational and staffing models for the City's Community Centers.

This analysis should have the end goals of (a) increasing the public's utilization of Community Centers, (b)

reducing the Community Centers' (almost complete) reliance on General Subfund support, (c) enhancing the Community Centers' ability to attain both short term and long-term financial stability and (d) enhancing the Community Centers' flexibility to make changes to operations to better address the needs and desires of their users.

This analysis should include a review of the following questions and/or issues:

- A. What are the historic and anticipated funding trends for the City's Parks Department and for Community Centers? The assumption is that the General Subfund support is likely to become scarcer.
- B. What opportunities are available for expanding partnerships with Parks Department's long-term recreational partner, the Associated Recreation Council, to operate and manage Community Centers?
- C. What opportunities can be developed for expanding partnerships with other recreational, community or volunteer groups, such as the Boys' & Girls' Clubs, the YMCA, other community non-profits or community associations, to operate and manage Community Centers?
- D. What alternative operational models have other cities, counties and governmental entities implemented for their community or recreation centers?
- E. How can the Parks Department work more closely with its employees, their labor representatives, neighborhood leaders, and the City's Advisory Councils to find and implement efficiencies and to complete a "boots on the ground" analysis of Community Center operations?
- F. Encourage the Parks Department to find efficiencies and alternative schedules to effectively staff the Community Centers. For example, can one Community Center Coordinator manage two Community Centers, instead of the one-to-one ratio in the Parks Department's current staffing model? As another example, do all Community Centers need the same basic structure and amount of staff (4.00 FTE Recreational, plus 1.00 FTE Custodial)?
- G. Encourage the Parks Department to find efficiencies in the operational model for Community Centers. This might involve different drop-in hours at different Centers based on demand and need for services, or different drop-in hours depending on the time of year.
- H. Encourage the Parks Department, in cooperation with Associated Recreation Council, to develop consistent methodologies for collecting data on all community center users, including drop in use, classes or activities of interest to users, etc. and consider the use of current technologies in the collection of such data.
- I. Encourage the Parks Department to pursue a different pricing model for Community Center services and charge higher entry and enrollment fees to some users, to generate additional revenue to support Community Center operations.
- J. Encourage the Parks Department along with Council Central Staff and City Budget Office staff to review the upcoming analysis by the Seattle Parks Foundation regarding long term parks funding issues related to the operation and maintenance of parks and recreational facilities as applicable to community center operations.

The City Council expects that Council Central Staff will work closely with the Parks Department and the City Budget Office on this analysis, and that the Parks and Seattle Center Committee will review the results of the analysis beginning on or around June 2011, including any proposals for 2012 implementation.

Responsible Council Committee(s): Parks and Seattle Center

Date Due to Council: June 1, 2011

Innovative Community Center Design Options Project (Draft 1-20-11)

In the 2011-2012 budget process, the Seattle City Council passed a statement of legislative intent (SLI) calling on the Parks Department to conduct research and analysis on

1. Increased partnerships for the management and operations of City's Community Centers (CC).

2. Increased partnerships for planning and fundraising for the City's Community Centers.

3. Alternate management, operational and staffing models for the City's Community Centers

This analysis should have the end goals of:

- a. increasing the public's utilization of CC,
- b. reducing the CC's (almost complete) reliance on General Subfund (GF) support,
- c. enhancing the CC's ability to attain both short term and long term financial stability, and
- d. enhancing the CC's flexibility to make changes to operations to better address the needs and desires of their users.

In order to respond to this SLI, the Department is forming the Innovative Community Center Design Options Project. This project will analyze current CC operations, research what other cities are doing to provide recreational opportunities to their residents, and work with employees, labor, current partners, and the public to identify options for future changes in CC operations.

			SLI Ref	Complete by	
Identify internal project structure					5-Jan
Organize Community Center Advisory Team (CCAT)					26-Jan
Background Information					31-Mar
	Current CC operations: hrs, costs, revenues, staffing		A.	31-Jan	
	Trends in GF support of Parks (SPF study)		J.	15-Feb	
	What other Parks Systems have tried?		D.	15-Feb	
	What do staff and public want us to look at?			31-Jan	
		staff		2-Dec	
		public		2-Feb	
	Alternative CC operations: hrs, costs, revenues, staffing				
		Staffing alternatives	F.	28-Feb	
		Operational model (hrs & program) alternatives	G.	28-Feb	
		Pricing model alternatives	I.	28-Feb	
	Data collection improvement needs (as revealed by above analysis)		H.	31-Mar	
Exploring Partnership opportunities					31-Mar
	Criteria for evaluating a partnership			31-Jan	
	Possibility for expanded ARC partnership		B.	1-Feb	
	Possibility for expanding other current partnerships			15-Feb	
	Preliminary conversation with		C.	28-Feb	

	possible partners				
	RFI asking for partnership interest		C.	1-Mar	
Preliminary Research Report					31-Mar
	Presentation to PASC			15-Mar	
Stakeholder Process					1-Apr
	Community Center Advisory Team (CCAT) (meet twice a month beg Feb)		E.		
	Public Meetings (sponsored by CCAT)		E.		
Draft Report					1-May
	Presentation to CCAT			5/7/2011	
	Presentation to Park Board			12-May	
	Approval by Supt.			15-May	
Incorporate Recommendations in Budget Issue Papers					15-May
Final SLI Report Due					1-Jun

2011 - 2012 Statement of Legislative Intent

Ready for Notebook

Tab	Action	Option	Version
103	1	A	1

Budget Action Title: Rowing and sailing centers transition plan

Councilmembers: Bagshaw; Clark; Harrell

Staff Analyst: Dan Nolte

Date		Total	SB	BH	SC	TR	JG	NL	RC	TB	MO
	Yes										
	No										
	Abstain										
	Absent										

Statement of Legislative Intent:

The Council requests that the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), in cooperation with the Associated Recreation Council and the advisory councils for the Green Lake Small Craft Center and the Mount Baker Rowing and Sailing Center, develop a transition plan for successful long-term operations of both centers. This plan should identify the operations goals of DPR's rowing and sailing program, evaluate utilization of the centers, analyze possible alternative management models, and, if possible, make recommendations about how the centers should be operated in the long-term. At least one management option should explore whether the

centers could become self-sufficient under a concession agreement or other arrangement. The plan should evaluate the benefits and costs of different operating models. Comparison to models in other cities should be included.

The City's small craft centers serve adults and youth through an array of fee-based programs including rowing, sailing, canoeing, kayaking, sail boarding and conditioning. Both the Green Lake Small Craft Center and the Mount Baker Rowing and Sailing Center provide physical conditioning, team-building and competition opportunities for participants. Youth rowing programs at both centers have won multiple national championships and given young athletes opportunities for college scholarships. More recently, Rainier Valley Rowers has used the Mount Baker facility as its base for introducing rowing to more young people of color. Both facilities are successful due in large part to active community supporters who fundraise for operations, scholarships and capital improvements.

Seattle enjoys a unique advantage over many cities when it comes to water activities, but the advantage of lake access is not sufficient to ensure the success of the City's small craft centers. As DPR seeks ways to minimize General Subfund expenditures and maximize earned income, review of the operations of the small craft boating centers makes sense.

Council requests a draft plan be provided to the Parks & Seattle Center Committee by December 31, 2011.

Responsible Council Committee(s): Parks and Seattle Center

Date Due to Council: December 31, 2011

Verbal Briefing

Ms. Everson reviewed information in the three Statement of Legislative Intents and Commissioners asked a number of questions. Commissioners Ramels and Kincaid have been appointed to the Community Center Advisory Committee working on the SLIs. At its May 12 meeting, the Board will hear an update briefing on the three Statements of Legislative Intent. Commissioners thanked Ms. Everson for the briefing.

Old/New Business:

To hear the Board's discussion of Old/New Business, see <http://www.seattlechannel.org/videos/video.asp?ID=4747> and move cursor to position 24.0.

Committee Reports:

Associated Recreation Council (ARC): Commissioner Ramels reported that ARC met last week for 30-45 minutes. She was disappointed the new Community Center Action Team wasn't discussed. She agreed to continue as the Park Board's representative on the ARC board through March 2011.

Park Naming Committee: Commissioner Kostka reported that the name Summit Slope for the new park on Capitol Hill rose to the top of the Naming Committee's list. Responding to a question on the membership of this committee, she responded there are three members: Paula Hoff represents the Superintendent, she is a member, and Anna Tomura, who works for the National Parks Service, is appointed by City Council.

Waterfront Planning Committee: Commissioner Kostka also reported that this committee, originally intended to sunset at end of 2010, will continue meeting through 2011 and is changing its operations.

Magnuson Park Advisory Council (MPAC): Commissioner Kincaid is the Board's new representative to this committee and attended her first meeting on January 11. MPAC spent part of the meeting on a self-evaluation of its first year of operation.

Commissioners will notify the Board's coordinator if they want to change committees and will continue working on assignments at January 27 meeting. The coordinator will also continue adding in meeting dates and other information.

Thank You Party for Former Commissioner Adams: Commissioner Kostka reminded commissioners of the party at her home on Friday evening, January 28.

There being no other new business, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

APPROVED: _____

Terry Holme, Chair
Board of Park Commissioners

DATE _____